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## Families Protecting the **Valley**

1930 Howard Road, Suite 121  
Madera, CA 93637

John Simpson, President  
Chester Andrew, Vice President  
Richard Iest, Secretary  
Robert Poythress, Treasurer

Steve Ritchie  
Acting Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Aug 1, 2000

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Families Protecting the Valley is a local Madera County organization formed to fight the proposed Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank resurrected by Azurix/Enron. The majority of our members are long term residents of Madera County who want to protect our community, our way of life and the agricultural assets of Madera County. This includes protecting our water rights!

We are opposed to the CALFED Bay-Delta Programs' Framework for Action (Framework) at all levels. We believe the Framework, if implemented as published on June 9, 2000, will be significantly harmful to California's rural, agricultural-based communities, their environment and their independence for local decision making. Our major concerns are as follows:

- **Seizure of Groundwater.** The Framework seeks to usurp the local control of groundwater resources and gives it to the State of California and the federal government. We believe the overlying landowners, residents and elected representatives of our local community are in the best position to make decisions on our behalf, not some bureaucrat ridden agency in Sacramento and/or Washington D.C.
- **Removes Local Control.** The Framework seeks to give priority, i.e. jurisdiction, to local water district groundwater planning over the local County General Plan authority. This action sets the stage for the various California and federal water agencies to have free rein with their "mandated programs". Our local county government's power to govern with locally written ordinances will be stripped with this plan. We are opposed to becoming puppets of state and federal agencies; residents of our community through local county government are the best stewards of our community.
- **Government Without Representation.** The Framework seeks to establish a Commission consisting of 12 members, 8 of which are appointed from state and federal agencies. This structure eliminates locally elected officials from playing a meaningful role in CALFED. The implications of this are far reaching and are in direct conflict with our democratic principles of government.
- **Groundwater Storage Needs Local Support.** The Framework seeks to develop groundwater storage that is locally controlled and managed. We believe such projects must also have local support to be successful. As you know, the Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank

has NO local support. Without such a requirement projects such as the Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank could be implemented.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We oppose the Framework for Action unless it is modified to reflect our concerns as noted above. Clearly, this is not a plan to develop California's water assets and restore habitat, but a plan to further erode the water rights of the residents of California.

Sincerely,



John Simpson, President  
Families Protecting the Valley

enclosures

cc: Gray Davis, Governor of California  
Bill Jones, California Secretary of State  
Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senator  
Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator  
Gary Condit, U.S. Congressman  
John T. Doolittle, U.S. Congressman  
Cal Dooley, U.S. Congressman  
George Radanovich, U.S. Congressman  
Bill Thomas, U.S. Congressman  
Richard Pombo, U.S. Congressman  
Maurice Johannssen, California State Senator  
Dick Monteith, California State Senator  
Dennis Cardoza, California State Assemblyman  
George House, California State Assemblyman  
Dean Florez, California State Assemblyman  
Mike Machado, California State Assemblyman  
Michael Spear, U.S. Dept of Fish and Wildlife  
Bill Lyons, California Dept of Food & Agriculture  
Lester Snow, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Madera County Board of Supervisors  
Madera City Council  
Chowchilla City Council  
Dick Moss, Friant Water Users' Authority  
Jason Peltier, Central Valley Project Water Association  
California State Farm Bureau  
Farm Bureau, Counties of Madera, Fresno, Merced, Santa Clara, San Benito,  
Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Kings, Tulare, Kern  
Santa Clara Valley Water District